

Maria Popova

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Academic Appointments

McGill University

Scientific Co-Director, Jean Monnet Centre Montreal, 2018-
Jean Monnet Chair, 2017-
Associate Professor (with tenure), 2014-
Assistant Professor, 2007-2014

Professional Awards and Honours

- 2017 Jean Monnet Chair “Europe and the Rule of Law,” European Commission
2013 *Best Book in Ukrainian History, Politics, Language, Literature and Culture*,
American Association for Ukrainian Studies
2007 *Edward S. Corwin Award*, American Political Science Association award for best
dissertation in the field of public law
2006 *Sumner Dissertation Prize*, Harvard University

Education

Harvard University

MA, PhD in Political Science, 2006

Dartmouth College

B.A. *summa cum laude*, High Honors in Government and Spanish Literature, 1997

Book

2012. *Politicized Justice in Emerging Democracies: A Study of Courts in Russia and Ukraine*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2012.
Winner, 2012-2013 American Association for Ukrainian Studies prize for best book in the fields of Ukrainian history, politics, language, literature, and culture.
Featured in a Critical Dialogue in *Perspectives on Politics* and reviewed in 11 other journals in comparative politics, area studies, law, and anthropology.

Journal Articles

- 2021 “Will the Real Conspiracy Please Stand Up: Sources of Post-Communist Democratic Failure,” *Perspectives on Politics* 19 (4). With Nikolay Marinov
- 2020 “Can A Leopard Change Its Spots? Strategic Behavior vs. Professional Role Conception During Ukraine’s 2014 Court Chair Elections” *Law & Policy* 42(4): 365-381.
2020. “No Revolution of Dignity for Ukraine’s Judges: Judicial Reform After Maidan” *Demokratizatsiya* 28 (1): 113-142. With Daniel Beers.
Winner, 2020 American Association for Ukrainian Studies best article prize
2018. “Prosecuting High-Level Corruption in Eastern Europe.” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 51 (3): 231-244. With Vincent Post.
2017. "Putin-Style “Rule of Law” & the Prospects for Change." *Daedalus* 146 (2): 64-75.
2016. “Fear and Loathing on the Post-Communist Street: Why Bulgaria's DANSwitme Protest Fizzled out, but Ukraine's Euromaidan Escalated.” *Critique and Humanism* 46 (2): 109-127.
- A Bulgarian version: „Страх и омраза на посткомунистическите улици: защо българския протест ДАНС затихва, а украинският Евромайдан ескалира?“, кн. 45, бр. 1/2016, стр. 107-129.
2015. “Die Entwicklung der ukrainischen Justiz seit dem Euromaidan.” *Transit: Europäische Revue* 48: 136-156. (“Ukraine’s Judiciary After Euromaidan” *Transit: European Review*)
2014. “Why the Orange Revolution Was Short and Peaceful and Euromaidan Long and Violent” *Problems of Post-Communism* 61 (6): 64-70.
2012. “Why Doesn’t the Bulgarian Judiciary Prosecute Corruption?” *Problems of Post-Communism* 59 (5): 35-49.
2010. “Political Competition as an Obstacle to Judicial Independence: Evidence from Russia and Ukraine.” *Comparative Political Studies* 43 (10): 1202-1229.
2010. “Be Careful What You Wish For: A Cautionary Tale of Post-Communist Judicial Empowerment.” *Demokratizatsiya* 18 (1): 56-73.
2006. “Watchdogs or Attack Dogs? The Role of the Russian Courts and the CEC in the Resolution of Electoral Disputes.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 58 (3): 391-414.

2004. "Implicit Objections to the Rule of Law Doctrine in Russian Legal Thought", *Journal of East European Law* 11 (2-3): 205-229.
2003. "Rossiiskaya Pravovaya Mysl' i Printsip Verkhovenstva Prava: Problemy Adaptatsii i Neobkhodimost' Dialoga." *Konstitutsionnoe Pravo: Vostochnoevropeskoe Obozrenie* 3(44).

Book Chapters

2020. "The Post-Communist Judiciary: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back" in Engelbrekt, K. and Petia Kostadinova (eds.), *Bulgaria's Democratic Institutions at Thirty: A Balance Sheet*. Lexington Books.
2019. "Prosecuting Corruption in Eastern Europe" (with Vincent Post) in Solomon, P. and Kaja Gadowska (eds.), *Legal Change in Post-Communist States: Progress, Reversions, Explanations*. Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society Series, ibidem Press
2018. "Journalists, Judges and State Officials: How Russian Courts Adjudicate Defamation Lawsuits Against Media" in Kurkchiyan, M. and Agnieszka Kubal (eds.), *A Sociology of Justice in Russia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 141-169.
2016. "Ukraine's Politicized Courts" in Hale, H. E. and Robert W. Orttung (eds.), *Beyond the Euromaidan: Comparative Perspectives for Advancing Reform in Ukraine*, Redwood City: Stanford University Press: 143-161.
2016. "Who Brought Ataka to the Political Scene: Analysis of the Vote for Bulgaria's Radical Nationalists" in Dragostinova, T. and Yana Hashamova (eds.), *Beyond Mosque, Church, and State: Alternative Narratives of the Nation in the Balkans*, Budapest and New York: Central European University Press: 259-287.
2012. "Polizirovannoe pravosudie v novykh demokratiyakh: politicheskaya bor'ba i sudebnaya nezavisimost' v Rossii i Ukraine" in Volkov, V. (ed.), *Kak Sud'i Prinimayut Resheniya: Empiricheskie Issledovaniya Prava*, Moscow: Statut: 199-224.

Book Reviews

2016. Tom Ginsburg and Alberto Simpser, eds. *Constitutions in Authoritarian Regimes*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013
 Nick Cheesman, *Opposing the Rule of Law: How Myanmar's Courts Make Law*

- and Order*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 2015
Perspectives on Politics 14 (3):51-53.
2013. Justin Crowe, *Building the Judiciary: Law, Courts, and the Politics of Institutional Development*, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2012
Critical Dialogues, *Perspectives on Politics* 11 (1): 216-218.
2013. Response to Justin Crowe's review of *Politicized Justice in Emerging Democracies: A Study of Courts in Russia and Ukraine*"
Perspectives on Politics 11(1): 215-216.
2009. Verkhovskii, A., 2006 *Demokratiya Vertikali*, Moskva: Informatsionno-Analiticheskii Tsentr "Sova" i Informatsionno-Issledovatel'skii Tsentr "Demos",
Canadian Slavonic Papers 51 (1): 124-128.

Other Academic Writing

2015. "Ukraine's Judiciary After Euromaidan." *Comparative Politics Newsletter* 25 (2): 32-36.
2015. "The 2014 Parliamentary Elections in Bulgaria." *Electoral Studies* 38: 114-118. with Petia Kostadinova.
2014. "The 2013 parliamentary elections in Bulgaria." *Electoral Studies* 34: 365-368. with Petia Kostadinova.
2012. "Post-Communist Courts: Independence, Accountability, and Popular Trust," Guest Editor's Introduction, *Problems of Post-Communism* 59 (5): 3-5.

Policy Articles, Blogs and Op-eds

2021. "The 2021 Bulgarian Election: A "QAnon" Turn for Eastern European Politics?" *LSE EUROPP Blog*, April 13. With Nikolay Marinov.
2020. "Das Trugbild vom Durchbruch zum Rechtsstaat: Justizreform nach der Revolution der Würde," *Ukraine-Analysen*, Ausgabe 238, Oct 9. With Mykhailo Zhernakov
2017. "How Can the EU Help Ukraine Build the Rule of Law and Fight Corruption? Romania and Bulgaria as Guideposts," *PONARS Policy Memo*, No. 469

2015. “Will There Be a “Full, Rapid and Transparent Investigation into Nemtsov’s Murder,” *The Monkey Cage@The Washington Post*, March 7, 2015
2014. “Ukraine’s Judicial Reforms,” *VoxUkraine*, December 15, 2014 (translated and reprinted by *Ukrainska Pravda*, December 17, 2014)
2014. “Ukraine’s Legal Problems: Why Kiev’s Plans to Purge the Judiciary Will Backfire,” *Foreign Affairs*, April 15, 2014
2014. “The Kremlin, Not Language, is Driving Ukraine Apart,” *The Globe and Mail*, April 15, 2014. With Matthew Light
2014. “What is Lustration and Is It a Good Idea for Ukraine to Adopt it?,” *The Monkey Cage@ Washington Post*, April 9, 2014 (reprinted by *Kyiv Post*). With Vincent Post.
2014. “Was Yanukovich’s Removal Constitutional?” *PONARS Eurasia Commentary*, March 20, 2014
2014. “What Doesn’t Kill Ukraine...,” *Foreign Policy*, March 12, 2014. With Oxana Shevel
2014. “Why Domestic Developments in Ukraine Still Matter,” *The Monkey Cage @ Washington Post*, March 5, 2014
2013. “The Strange Court Case of Alexey Navalny,” *The Monkey Cage*, July 22, 2013

Recent Invited Talks and Presentations

2021. JUSTIN Institute, Masaryk University, Czechia. Post-Maidan Judicial Reform
2020. PONARS Eurasia, George Washington University. The Politics of Corruption Prosecutions.
2019. University of Manchester. Post-Maidan Judicial Reforms.
2019. University of Oxford, St. Anthony’s College. Post-Maidan Judicial Reforms.
2019. Miami University of Ohio. Havighurst Center. Rule of Law Backsliding in Eastern Europe
2019. Carleton University, Centre for European Studies. The Rule of Law in Eastern Europe 15 Years after EU Accession
2018. Embassy of Austria, Ottawa. Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience

2018. Yale University, McMillan Centre. The Weaponization of Law in Russia
2018. Columbia University, Harriman Institute. Putin-Style “Rule of Law”
2017. Princeton University. Ukraine’s Anti-Corruption and Judicial Reforms.
2017. Georgetown University. Weaponization of Law. Data and Methods in the Comparative Study of Legal Institutions Collaborative Workshop
2016. American Academy of Arts and Science, Harvard University. Can Russia Become a Rule of Law State? *Daedalus* Authors’ Workshop
2016. Georgetown University. Instrumental Politicization of Judicial Output. Data and Methods in the Comparative Study of Legal Institutions Collaborative Workshop.
2015. University of Oxford. How Politicized are the Russian Courts? Sociology of Justice in Russia Workshop
2015. Université Libre de Bruxelles. Ukraine’s Judiciary After Euromaidan.
2015. Sciences Po, Centre de Recherches Internationales. Ukraine’s Judiciary After Euromaidan.
2015. Leiden University. Prosecution of Political Corruption in Eastern Europe
2015. Kyiv School of Economics, University of California-Berkeley, USAID, and Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, Kyiv, Ukraine. Symposium EscapeUSSR? Judicial Reform After Maidan.
2015. Università di Bologna. Prosecution of Political Corruption in Eastern Europe
2014. Université de Montréal School of Law. Constitutional Dimensions of the Ukrainian Crisis.
2014. University of North Carolina. Ukraine Under the Fog of War.
2014. Simon Fraser University. Ukraine Under the Fog of War.
2014. Emory University. Book talk for *Politicized Justice*.
2014. University of Michigan. Book talk for *Politicized Justice*.
2014. Columbia University, Harriman Institute. Book talk for *Politicized Justice*.
2014. Université de Montréal, Ukraine’s Euromaidan: A Pro-European Revolution?

2013. *Advancing Reform in Ukraine* workshop, Kyiv, Ukraine. “Ukraine’s Politicized Courts” December 13-14.

Recent Conference Presentations

2021 “Ukraine’s Constitutional Court Crisis,” Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Convention, May 5-8.

2019. “Anticorruption in Bulgaria and Romania: Similar Pressures, Different Outcomes,” Annual Convention of Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, San Francisco, Nov 23-26.

2019. “Politicization of the Judiciary” RESTEP Summer Retreat Workshop, Sep 1-3

2019. “The Rule of Law Breakthrough that Wasn’t: Judicial Reform After Maidan” (with Daniel Beers), Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, May 2-4.

2019. “The Weaponization of Law,” Joint Sessions of Workshops, European Consortium for Political Research, Mons, Belgium, April 8-12.

2018. “Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience,” co-panelist at roundtable entitled “Illiberal democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: What – if anything – can the EU do?,” European Studies Community Association – Canada (ECSA-C) Biennial Conference, Toronto, May 10-12.

2018. “Weaponized Legalism,” Academic Workshop “Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience”, Jean Monnet Centre Montreal, McGill University, April 19-20.

2017. “Judicial Reform After the Euromaidan: The More Things Change...,” 14th Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine, University of Ottawa, November 16-18.

2016. “Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law Reforms in Ukraine,” PONARS Policy Workshop, Montreal, December 3-5.

2016. “Post-Communist Protests and the Rule of Law,” Between Europe and Russia Network Workshop, McGill University, September 29-30.

2015. “Fear and Loathing on the Post-Communist Street: Why Bulgaria's DANSwithme Protest Fizzled Out, but Ukraine's Euromaidan Escalated,” 22nd Conference of Europeanists, Paris, July 8-10.

2015. "Ukrainian Judicial Reform after Euromaidan," Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, San Antonio, November 20-23
2014. "Why Does Kivalov Still Pull the Strings: Ukraine's Judicial Lustration Process," Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine, University of Ottawa, October 31-November 2
2014. "Politicization of Justice: Conceptualization and Measurement," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 29-September 2
2014. "Prosecuting High Level Corruption in Eastern Europe," International Political Science Association World Congress, Montreal, July 20-23.
2014. "Ukrainian Studies: Bibliometric Analysis," (with Radu Parvulescu), Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, New York, April 24-26.
2013. "Prosecuting High-Level Corruption in Eastern Europe" (with Vincent Post), Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Boston, November 21-24.
2013. "Judicial Independence and Media Freedom: Defamation Litigation Trends in Russia, 2004-2010," Council for European Studies 20th International Conference, Amsterdam, June 24-26.
2013. "How Politicized Are the Russian Courts? Evidence from Defamation Cases Against Media Outlets, 1997-2011," Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Boston, May 30-June 2.
2013. "Attack and Counter-Attack: Mainstream Party-Radical Challenger Interaction in Bulgaria," Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention, Columbia University, New York, April 18-20.
2013. "Political Competition and Judicial Independence in Democracies: A Cross-national Test," European Consortium for Political Research Joint Sessions of Workshops, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany, March 11-16.
2012. "Authoritarian Learning and the Politicization of Justice in Ukraine: The Tymoshenko Case in Context," Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, New Orleans, November 15-18.
2012. "The Politicization of Justice in Ukraine under Yanukovich," *8th Annual Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukrainian Studies*, University of Ottawa, November 1-3.

2012. “Political Competition, Judicial Independence, and Electoral Regime Age,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (conference cancelled)

Research Grants and Awards

- 2017- Jean Monnet Chair, Erasmus Programme, European Commission, €50,000
- 2011- Standard Research Grant for project “Prosecuting Corruption in Eastern Europe,” Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), \$111,000
- 2011- New Professor-Researcher Grant for project “Lutte contre le corruption,” Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC), \$39,600
- 2010 Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grant, McGill University, \$2,500
- 2007 SEED Collaborative Grant for project “The Radical Right in Bulgaria,” (with Stoyan Sgourev, ESSEC, France), Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University, \$5000

Professional Service

- 2019-2022 Elected Member of the Board of Directors of the *Association for Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies* (ASEEES)
- 2019, 2020 Book prize committee, Heldt Prize, Association for Women in Slavic Studies
- 2019- Editorial Board Member, *East European Politics*
- 2018-2021 Executive Committee Member, PONARS Eurasia
- 2018 Academic Workshop organizer, “Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience,” Jean Monnet Centre Montreal, McGill University, April 19-20, 2018
- 2016 Book prize committee, American Association for Ukrainian Studies
- 2013- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society*, published by Krytyka Institute, Ukrainian Research Institute Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2012 Guest Editor, *Problems of Post-Communism*, vol. 59, no. 5 (September-October 2012)

- 2010- Member, PONARS Eurasia—an international network of academics that advances new policy approaches to research and security in Russia and Eurasia, <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/>
- 2007- Editorial Committee and Advisory Board Member, Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Societies Book Series, published by Ibidem, Stuttgart, Germany, ISSN 1614-3515

Referee

Cambridge University Press, American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Political Research Quarterly, European Journal for Political Research, International Political Science Review, Studies in Comparative and International Development, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Law and Society Review, Law and Social Inquiry, Journal of Law and Courts, Slavic Review, Europe-Asia Studies, Post-Soviet Affairs, East European Politics and Societies, Demokratizatsiya, Problems of Post-Communism, Comparative European Politics, Nationalities Papers, Journal of International Relations and Development, World Development.

University Service

- 2018- Graduate Program Director, Department of Political Science
Scientific Co-Director, Jean Monnet Centre Montreal
- 2017- University Tenure Committee
- 2017 Search Committee, Comparative Politics-Behavior, Department of Political Science
- 2013-18 Associate Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science
- 2010- Admissions and Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of Political Science
- 2011- Distinguished Lectureships Committee, Faculty of Arts
- 2012 Search Committee, Canadian and European Politics, Department of Political Science
- 2012 Search Committee, Russian Literature, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

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| 2011 | Search Committee, Papachristidis Chair in Modern Greek Studies, Department of History |
| 2010 | Search Committee, Chinese Politics, Department of Political Science |
| 2007-08 | Minors advisor |
| 2007-10 | Library liaison |

Teaching Experience

Seminars:

Mixed Methods Research in European Studies, McGill University
 Interdisciplinary Seminar in European Studies, McGill University
 Post-Communist Transformations, McGill University
 Rule of Law, Corruption, and Good Governance, McGill University
 Judicial Politics and Corruption, McGill University
 Nationalism, Myth, and Identity: Ukraine and the CIS, University of Toronto

Lecture courses:

The European Union, McGill University
 Transitions from Communism, McGill University
 Politics in East Central Europe, McGill University
 Law and Courts in Europe, McGill University

Independent studies:

Polish Judicial Reforms, Hungarian Rule of Law Backsliding, Protest and Revolutions, Russian Politics, Post-Communist Party Politics, Georgian Politics, Corruption, Constitutional Politics in Asia, Water Resources Management in Central Asia, Central European Politics, Mongolian Politics.

Languages

Functional Native Proficiency: Bulgarian and English
 Advanced Professional Proficiency: Russian and Spanish
 General Professional Reading Proficiency: Ukrainian, Macedonian, Italian, French